

Serial No: 09/829,623

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-25 and add new claims 26-28 as follows:

1 Claim 1. (currently amended) An information providing method embodied
2 in computer memory for a network, for providing, via a network, content ~~that~~
3 ~~constitutes an entire body of information~~ based on conditions that are
4 defined in advance, comprising the steps of:

5 generating a finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents for
6 content that corresponds to an entire body of information, wherein said
7 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents are ~~hieratically~~ hierarchically structured
8 according to ~~the~~ a total number of pages contained ~~therein~~ in each of the
9 intermediate documents;

10 assigning each of said finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~
11 documents an information level based on ~~said amount of information content~~
12 the number of pages contained therein; and

13 selecting at least one of said intermediate ~~contents~~ documents; and
14 providing ~~information at a selected level~~ the at least one of said
15 selected intermediate document.

1 Claim 2. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 1, wherein information contained in said ~~content~~ entire
3 body of information is employed as said intermediate ~~content~~ document.

1 Claim 3. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 2, wherein information obtained by changing at least a
3 part of said information included in said ~~content~~ document is employed as
4 said intermediate ~~content~~ document.

1 Claim 4. (original) The information providing method according to
2 claim 3, wherein a condition determined in accordance with a request from a
3 user is defined as said condition that is defined in advance.

1 Claim 5. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 4, wherein an intermediate ~~content~~ document is selected
3 at a level that corresponds to said condition determined in accordance with
4 said request from said user.

1 Claim 6. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 5, wherein a condition for reducing or increasing the

Serial No: 09/829,623

3 amount of information in said ~~content~~ document is defined as said condition
4 that is defined in advance.

1 Claim 7. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 6, wherein a condition for extracting an information type
3 that represents said ~~content~~ document is employed as said condition
4 determined in advance.

1 Claim 8. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 7, wherein price information is provided for said
3 ~~contents~~ documents, and compensation information based on said price
4 information is provided for each of said intermediate ~~contents~~ documents at
5 said levels that are generated.

1 Claim 9. (currently amended) An information providing computer
2 apparatus comprising:

3 storage means for storing content that constitutes an entire body of
4 information in computer readable memory;

5 connection means for connecting said content to a network so as to
6 provide said content;

7 generation means for, based on a condition determined in advance,
8 generating intermediate ~~contents~~ documents at a finite number of levels
9 relative to said content, wherein said intermediate ~~contents~~ documents are
10 ~~hieratically~~ hierarchically structured according to ~~the~~ a total number of
11 pages contained ~~therein~~ in each of the intermediate documents;

12 means for assigning each of said finite number of intermediate
13 ~~contents~~ documents an information level based on ~~said amount of information~~
14 ~~content~~ the number of pages contained therein; and

15 ~~output~~ selecting means for selecting at least one of said intermediate
16 documents; and

17 outputting at least one of said selected intermediate ~~contents~~
18 documents.

1 Claim 10. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 9, wherein said generation means employs information
3 included in said content to generate intermediate ~~contents~~ documents at a
4 finite number of levels.

1 Claim 11. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 10, wherein said generation means employs information

Serial No: 09/829,623

3 obtained by changing at least a part of the information included in said
4 content to generate intermediate ~~contents~~ documents at a finite number of
5 levels.

1 Claim 12. (original) The information providing apparatus according to
2 claim 11, wherein said generation means includes input means for receiving a
3 request from said user, and a condition designated in accordance with said
4 request is employed as said condition determined in advance.

1 Claim 13. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 12, wherein said output means selects an intermediate
3 ~~content~~ document at a level that corresponds to said condition designated in
4 accordance with said request from said user.

1 Claim 14. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus .
2 according to claim 11, wherein said generation means generates said
3 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents by defining, as said condition determined in
4 advance, a reduction or an increase in the amount of information contained
5 by said ~~content~~ document.

1 Claim 15. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 14, wherein said generation means generates said
3 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents by defining, as said condition determined in
4 advance, extraction of an information type that represents said ~~content~~
5 document.

1 Claim 16. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 15, further comprising:
3 price storage means for storing said ~~content~~ document in correlation
4 of with price information; and

5 compensation means for providing compensation information that is
6 based on said price information for each of said intermediate ~~contents~~
7 documents at said levels that are generated.

1 Claim 17. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 1, further comprising associating a content price for
3 each of the intermediate ~~contents~~ documents based on the number of pages
4 contained therein.

1 Claim 18. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 9, further comprising a price storage unit configured to

Serial No: 09/829,623

3 associate a content price for each of the intermediate ~~contents~~ documents
4 based on the number of pages contained therein.

1 Claim 19. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 1, further comprising providing a grammatical description
3 of the amount of information contained in said finite number of intermediate
4 ~~contents~~ documents.

Claim 20. (canceled)

1 Claim 21. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2 according to claim 9, further comprising means for providing a grammatical
3 description of the amount of information contained in said finite number of
4 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents.

Claim 22. (canceled)

1 Claim 23. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a
2 ~~tangible media~~ computer memory comprising:
3 computer readable program codes ~~coupled to~~ stored in the tangible media
4 computer memory for providing, via a network, content that constitutes an
5 entire body of information based on conditions that are defined in advance,
6 the computer readable program codes configured to cause the program to:
7 generate a finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents for
8 content that corresponds to an entire body of information, wherein said
9 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents are ~~hieratically~~ hierarchically structured
10 according to ~~the~~ a total number of pages contained ~~therein~~ in each of the
11 intermediate documents;
12 assign each of said finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents
13 an information level based on ~~said amount of information content~~ the number
14 of pages contained therein; and
15 select at least one of said intermediate ~~contents~~ documents; and
16 ~~providing information at a selected level~~ provide the at least one of
17 said selected intermediate document.

1 Claim 24. (currently amended) The computer program product according
2 to claim 23, further comprising program codes configured to cause the program
3 to provide a description of the amount of information contained in said
4 finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents.

Serial No: 09/829,623

1 Claim 25. (currently amended) The computer program product according
2 to claim 23, further comprising program codes configured to cause the program
3 to associate a content price for each of the intermediate ~~contents~~ documents
4 based on the number of pages contained therein.

1 Claim 26. (new) The information providing method according to claim 1,
2 wherein the entire body of information includes text information.

1 Claim 27. (new) The information providing apparatus according to claim
2 9, wherein the entire body of information includes text information.

1 Claim 28. (new) The computer program product according to claim 23,
2 wherein the entire body of information includes text information.